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In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1875" has been further augmented by a CHROMO-LITHOGRAPH

OF A PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG, THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK.

also of THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS (Designed expressly for the Work), MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, THE SILK WORM DISTRICTS, THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA, AND OF THE COAST OF CHINA; ALSO, THE NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE HONGKONG.

besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this Work in every way available for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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Hongkong, 2nd January, 1875.

BOUND VOLUMES of the China Overland Trade-Report for the Year 1874. Price Ten Dollars.

Apply at the Daily Press Office, Hongkong, 1st February, 1875.

DEATH. Mr. A. A. D. died at 34 years. [184]

The Daily Press HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 2ND, 1875.

THE Registrar-General's mortality returns, which were published in yesterday's issue of this journal, are not altogether satisfactory. After deducting the deaths which were caused by the disastrous typhoid of September last, it appears that the rate of mortality for every thousand persons among the British and foreign community for the year 1874 was 29.59, and among the Chinese 22.19, while in 1873 the rate for the former was 27.72, and for the latter 22.23. The greatest increase, nearly 2 in the thousand, is observable in the mortality among the British and foreign residents. It is clear, therefore, that the health of the Colony is not so good as might be wished. There seems to have been no one particular disease more especially prevalent than another during the past year, but the increase is pretty evenly divided between those usually fatal among the European residents. Phthisis claimed 27 victims last year, being an increase of 8 over those of 1873; in diarrhoea there is no change in the numbers perceptible, but against 10 deaths resulting from dysentery in 1873, there occurred 14 during the year just gone. There was more fever about, also, in 1874, the deaths numbering 15, compared with 10 in the preceding year. From these figures it is apparent that fever and dysentery were more fatal last year than they are wont to be, while phthisis was, as usual, at the head of the list of diseases. Europeans will act wisely in paying attention to their diet and apparel during the present year, as it is in great measure through careless inattention to those matters that fever and dysentery are generally brought on.

There has been a greater number of deaths among the Chinese population from fever and diarrhoea during the past year than in 1873. The comparison stands thus:—Fever, 261 deaths in 1874, against 248 in 1873; diarrhoea, 321, against 195 in 1873. But that dreaded epidemic, small-pox, was far less destructive to life during the past year than in 1873, the number of deaths from it having fallen off from 121 in the latter period to 38 in 1874. It is to be hoped that the present year will see it nearly stamped out. In the mortality arising from phthisis there has, among the Chinese, also been a decline, from 325 in 1873 to 220 in the past year.

From months, which was very fatal among children in 1873, there was not during last year a single death, the epidemic having seemingly had its course. There has, however, been a great increase in the number of victims to ague, the deaths in the past twelve months amounting to 166, compared with 73 in the year preceding.

We trust, in view of this augmented mortality, the utmost precautions will be taken to keep the city in a good sanitary condition. There are no stagnant waters in Hongkong, and the city of Victoria is built on a site most favourable for good drainage. Neither is there much decaying vegetation. Several

of the chief originators of epidemics common to hot climates, therefore, are absent, and the death rate ought consequently to be low. It is not, we are fully aware, what may be fairly called high—it is much lower than the average for several of the large cities of the United Kingdom—but at the same time it is not pleasant to have to note an accession to it. Hongkong still enjoys a reputation for unhealthiness at home, which it first obtained from a great mortality among the troops some years since. But these statistics of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1875" dispel the fallacy, and prove that the Colony is much healthier than most countries situated in similar latitudes.

If the Nation speaks authoritatively, the United States has no desire to cumber itself with the possession of the Sandwich Islands. It is a well-known fact that there is a party in the States who have a strong hankering after territorial aggrandisement, and would rejoice to see the bounds of their already vast Republic extended northwards by the incorporation of Canada and southwards by the annexation of Mexico. It has likewise long been a question for argument with them, whether or not it is worth while to undertake the subjugation of Cuba. But the counsels of the peace party have hitherto prevailed, and the golden opportunity has been taken possession of, without, possibly, any very serious opposition on the part of Spain; now the new King and Government would resist such a course most strenuously, being sure that they would thereby have the approbation and sympathy of the people. But it is very doubtful whether Cuba would not have proved a white elephant to the Americans, even though it had been secured without bloodshed. And the majority of the citizens had no desire for its acquisition. There is more reason, perhaps, in the wish not only to a paramount on the Continent, but to have America for the Americans. And it is by no means improbable that some day both Canada and Mexico may enter the great confederation, if it does not, ere this time, split up into sections.

But, as far as foreign acquisitions are concerned, the United States needs them not. The territory over which the Washington Government rules is already so large and its products so varied that the Americans can have no interest in seeking for colonial possessions. It is perfectly true that they have more influence in the councils of King KALAKA than any other nationality, but while they exercise it merely in furtherance of their commercial interests no one can rightly accuse them of ulterior and deeper designs. There is little doubt that the Nation represents the opinion of a large party in the States, and that they, at least, have no wish to succeed to the sovereignty of these beautiful and productive islands. Of course, it is only a question of time, as the Nation points out, who is to possess them, for the Hawaiians are rapidly fading, like the Maories, before the advance of civilisation. Unlike the Americans represented by the Nation, Englishmen, though not particularly anxious to acquire new colonies, do care a little bit into whose hands Asia, especially kind sort of call between India and China and America, and might be worth our while to accept, as we have lately accepted Fiji. If, therefore, America does not want and will not have the Sandwich Islands, England will probably, when the time comes, not refuse to take the responsibility of governing them. Meantime it is interesting to note that there, as elsewhere, the Chinese are taking the place of the fast disappearing natives.

The steamship *Legation* returned from dock last evening.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Hector* left Singapore, for this port, on the 29th inst.

In a notification just issued by the Registrar, concerning the year 1875, it is announced that no special, although some in the name as a rule will be caused from service on the ground of any exemption to which he may be entitled, or on the ground of any want of qualification, unless such exemption shall have been claimed and established, or such want of qualification duly proved, on or before the 16th inst. These concerns had better, therefore, make a note of it.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of No. 3, vol. III, of the *China Review*. The number before us is a very interesting and instructive one. The article on Chinese Proverbs and Lessons, by Mr. A. Lister, is well written, and comparisons drawn between them and the sayings of the Chinese. The article on the Chinese, by Mr. A. Lister, is well written, and comparisons drawn between them and the sayings of the Chinese.

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POLICE INTELLIGENCE. 1st February. BEFORE J. M. J. Esq.

Sikh constable No. 658 charged Chin Ahnong and another with fighting at an hydrant in Coleraine Street.

The first defendant appeared with his head bandaged, and both were fined \$1 each.

BEFORE J. M. J. Esq.

P. K. R. No. 87 charged Wong Ahnong with attempting to commit larceny on board the Canton steamer this morning.

Complainant said an elderly man, a trader between Canton and Hongkong, was on board with a bundle under his arm, when the defendant snatched it away and tried to run, but was prevented in consequence of the crowd.

The defendant, who was recognised as having been up before for running away with another man's wife, was sent to two months' hard labour.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

Mr. L. Encarnacion, storekeeper at the P. & O. Co.'s depot, charged a Chinese, named Silva, with assaulting him in a by-street in a brutal manner.

Complainant said he was an elderly man and had been under the Canton steamer, when he was assaulted by the defendant. He was very weak, and was compelled to ride in a chair when he went about. On Saturday evening, he was going to see his daughter, living at the corner of Old Bailey street, when he observed the defendant following him. When he arrived at the large tent at the top of Old Bailey street, he had got under it in the dark, and the defendant seized him, saying, "What have you been writing to your sister about?" He made up, getting out of the chair, that it was none of his business. The defendant then slapped his face. He asked him why he stopped him, and the old man said in the street he was a thief and assaulted him. The defendant then and another man, who was with him, beat him, but he, and when the police came up to him, he was nearly insensible from weakness.

The defendant said the complainant was in the habit of slandering the good name; in fact, in August last, he had been charged with being compelled to place the case in the hands of Messrs. Oldwell and Brecken, when the complainant, to prevent the case from being brought before the court, had sent him a letter, in which he expressed his regret that he was not feeling disposed to bring the case before the public himself, he accepted the apology. Since then, however, the complainant had slandered him, and he was now charged with being compelled to place the case in the hands of Messrs. Oldwell and Brecken, when the complainant, to prevent the case from being brought before the court, had sent him a letter, in which he expressed his regret that he was not feeling disposed to bring the case before the public himself, he accepted the apology. Since then, however, the complainant had slandered him, and he was now charged with being compelled to place the case in the hands of Messrs. 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